



**United States Attorney's Office
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PRESS RELEASE

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LEADERS OF THE DETROIT HIGHWAYMEN FOUND GUILTY OF RACKETEERING, DRUG AND WEAPONS CHARGES

Six leaders of the Detroit Highwaymen Motorcycle Club were found guilty today on a variety of charges including conspiracy to violate federal racketeering laws and conspiracy to commit murder, along with controlled substance, stolen property, and firearm violations, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced. These six defendants are the first of ninety-one Detroit Highwaymen members and associates to go to trial.

United States Attorney McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Leonard "Dad" Moore, 61, Joseph "Little Joe" Whiting, 56, Anthony "Mad Anthony" Clark, 52, Michael "Cocoa" Cicchetti, 55, Aref "Scarfare" Nagi, 46, and Gary "Junior" Ball Jr., 44, were found guilty today by a federal jury in United States District Court empaneled before Judge Nancy G. Edmunds. The jury deliberated for approximately 25 hours before returning the verdict, concluding a two-month long trial.

United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade said, "Violent crime is a top priority of the U.S. Attorney's Office, and we will use all of the tools available to us to attack violent criminal organizations like this one."

"Dismantling violent gangs is a continuing priority for the FBI. This verdict is the direct result of joint efforts with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, and we will continue to work diligently with our colleagues to investigate and eradicate gangs and the violence they perpetrate," said FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena. "Together we are committed to restoring safety and security to our neighborhoods."

The Highwaymen Motorcycle Club is headquartered in southwest Detroit and has numerous chapters in the city of Detroit, in several cities in southeast Michigan, and has chapters in other states. Prosecutors were able to prove the violent nature of the club when witnesses testified to a range of criminal activity including armed robbery, attempted murder, conspiracies to kill witnesses, use of firearms during acts of violence, and the distribution of large amounts of marijuana, cocaine, and steroids.

Evidence at trial also established the highly structured organization and chain of the command of the Highwaymen. These six defendants represented many of the officers, or bosses, of the enterprise. Evidence also showed that other members of the club were heavily involved in narcotics trafficking and theft offenses.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and their Violent Crime Task Force, with the assistance of the Brownstown Township Police Department, Detroit Police Department, Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police. FBI Special Agent Ted Brzezinski was the lead case agent responsible for handling and coordinating the multi-year investigative effort.

Each defendant faces a potential life sentence due to the nature of the offenses. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney's Diane Marion and Christopher Graveline.